

**Dear President and Officers of the ILAE Chapter,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,**

I feel honored to be nominated to serve in the Executive Committee of ILAE in 2013-2017. The accomplishments of the League for more than 100 years are tremendous; the role of the ILAE as the leading society of medical professionals devoted to improving the lives of persons with epilepsy is well recognized. As outlined by our President-Elect, Emilio Perucca, top priorities of the next term will be to address the treatment gap, promote epilepsy care and research, foster the education and the mentoring of the younger generation of epileptologists, and continue advocacy initiatives for people with epilepsy. I regard the Executive Committee as active and efficient international body working as a team to meet the needs of people with epilepsy around the world and fully support strategies and goals outlined by the President-Elect.

I hope to be able to contribute to the implementation of these goals on the background of my professional expertise and the experience gained during the years of serving in the Commission of European affairs, being also involved in the initiatives of the WHO and international and European neurological community. With a background in general neurology, for about 25 years I am taking care of patients with epilepsy. Currently I am Professor of Neurology in the Russian National Research Medical University and the Head of the Moscow City Hospital №8 for Neuropsychiatry. My primary areas of research - epilepsy in the elderly, after stroke and brain trauma, with focus to mechanisms of epileptogenesis after brain injury, studies in epidemiology (honored by Bruce S. Schoenberg International Award and lecture in Neuroepidemiology), quality of life in patients with epilepsy in different geographical, economical, social and cultural areas.

For about 20 years I am involved in activities of the ILAE, serving for 12 years in the Commission of European Affairs, being currently the CEA Secretary and previously – the Chair of the European Advisory Council with more than 40 European Chapters. It gave an experience in development of successful collaborative initiatives and adjustment of the strategic plans to the particular needs and priorities of each Chapter. The concept of Chapter Conventions was further developed with formation of forum of all the European Chapters, where plans and initiatives of the development of epilepsy care in all regions of Europe, important aspects of promoting education and research are brought up for discussion.

For many years I am involved in educational initiatives at the International and European level. I am a member of the CEA Subcommittee on Education, one of the founders and the Director of the Migrating Course, now - with the successful 6-years history and participants from more than 25 Countries. I have a privilege to be selected as the recipient of the 2012 (CEA) European Educational Award on Epileptology.

I came from a country situated geographically in Europe and in Asia with many regions quite different in their ethnic, cultural, economic, historical background. I have been very much involved in the Programs for development of epilepsy care, managing with a range (from quite appropriate to very limited) medical and financial resources available for epilepsy care in each region. This experience was enriched by years of work in the CEA with special attention to the particular needs of different Chapters and full respect to their priorities in epilepsy care, education and research.

If nominated and elected I will do my best to follow and enrich the ILAE traditions, promoting education, training and research, the improvement of epilepsy care and strengthening cooperation between epilepsy specialists of the world. I will contribute to the successful development of the ILAE with the following priorities:

- **Optimization of epilepsy care worldwide** and providing comprehensive epileptology in countries with different level of resources. Improvement of the access to care in countries with limited resources. Development of strategic collaborative initiatives with WHO and IBE.
- **Education**, focusing on the strategic development of the ILAE educational agenda with the integrated system of on-site and distant educational activities, assessment of needs and effectiveness; dissemination of knowledge in collaboration with other professionals.
- **Research**, with the focus on collaborative research projects and efforts to promote funding for epilepsy research; special attention to mentoring of the next generation of leading epileptologists.
- **Improving the lines of communication** and strengthening cooperation between epilepsy professionals all over the world.

I think it is essential to promote teamwork with greater participation of all the ILAE Chapters, identifying priorities and needs and implementing successful initiatives, fostering the collaboration with IBE and WHO, strengthening the global position to impact government policies addressing epilepsy care. There is another issue that could be taken into consideration. For the whole history of the League there were no women among ILAE officers. Probably it is high time to make an exception, and it could be beneficial for the League as a whole, as it is of the essence of the female nature to listen, to help and to understand many different individual needs, to create peaceful and productive atmosphere.

May I ask for support of your Chapter in voting for me as an officer of the ILAE Executive.

Respectfully yours,

Professor Alla Guekht

1575.g23@g23.relcom.ru
guekht@mail.ru

Professor Alla Guekht – CURRICULUM VITAE



Professor Alla Guekht was born in Moscow, Russia, in 1961. She obtained a M.D. degree at the 2nd Moscow Medical Institute and completed residency in Neurology in the same Institute in 1984. She was then trained in Neuropsychology in Burdenko Institute of Neurosurgery (school of Alexander Luria), Electroencephalography (Institute of Neurology, Russian Academy of Medical sciences), Electromyography (Russian National center for Myasthenia Gravis); participated in the training/fellow programs in the Neurological Departments of Munster University, University of Homburg/Saar (Germany), Department of Neurology and the Electrodiagnostic Laboratory of the Thomas Jefferson Hospital, Comprehensive Epilepsy Center in the Graduate Hospital (USA). She received the PhD Diploma for the dissertation on EEG monitoring in carotid surgery and has been appointed an Assistant Professor of the Russian State Medical University. In 1994 she obtained the Doctor of Medical Sciences Diploma for the dissertation on Brain plasticity and restoration after stroke, and served as the Associate Professor, then (since 1999) - Professor of the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery. She is the Head (since 2007) of the Neurology and Epilepsy Clinic of the 12th City Hospital in Moscow. In 2011 she was appointed the Director of the Moscow City Hospital № 8 for Neuropsychiatry.

In 2003 she received the Bruce S. Schoenberg International Award and lecture in Neuroepidemiology (American Academy of Neurology, 2003) for the study - Seizures after stroke: prospective study of acute stroke patients; in 2006 – “Honored Physician of the Russian Federation” Award of the Government of Russia; in 2009 - “Priznanie” (Recognition) Award of the Russian Federation for multidisciplinary research in restoration after stroke.

She has been selected as the recipient of the 2012 European Educational Award on Epileptology.

Her main research interests have been focused on epilepsy in the elderly, epilepsy after stroke and traumatic brain injury and epidemiology in epilepsy. She is the author of more than 150 Pubmed-listed publications and 10 books on Neurology and Epileptology, including the National guidelines and Manual in Neurology. She is the mentor to many young neurologists and epileptologists with over 20 completed PhD and 4 doctoral dissertations. She served in the Editorial Boards of *Epilepsia*, *Epileptic Disorders*; currently – in the Editorial Boards of the *Journal of Neurological Sciences* and *Korsakov Journal of Neurology and Psychiatry*.

Alla Guekht was the Member of the International Organizing Committee and/or Scientific Advisory Committee for the several European Congresses on epileptology (2008, 2010, 2012), invited speaker at many International and European Congresses on Epileptology and sessions on epilepsy at the European and World Neurology Congresses.

She is currently the Secretary of the ILAE Commission on European affairs. Since 1997 she served in sub-commissions of the Commission on European affairs. Since 2001 she was a member of the CEA, chairing the Subcommission for Central/Eastern Europe (2001-2005) and being the Chair of the European Advisory Council in 2005-2009.

She is the Secretary of the Russian Chapter of the ILAE. She established the Epilepsy clinic with epilepsy surgery program in Moscow and contributed to the organization of epilepsy centers in many Russian regions and former Soviet Union countries. She made a substantial contribution to the development of epilepsy care and education in Russia and Central and Eastern Europe; initiated extensive population-based studies on epidemiology of epilepsy in the region and studies on QOL, that made important impact on the improvement of epilepsy care in the region.

She is one of the founders and Director of the Migrating Course of epilepsy, member of the organizing committee of Eilat Course, speaker at San Servolo, Baltic Sea and Caucasian Summer Schools, as well as in many other regional Courses in Europe.

Since 1997 she contributed to several Global and Regional WHO initiatives in Mental Health, Noncommunicable diseases and Neurological disorders. She is currently a liaison of the ILAE Commission on European affairs to the European Federation of Neurological Science, member of the Education Committee and the Membership Committee of the World Federation of Neurologists, Congress Program Committee of the European Federation of Neurological Sciences, Secretary-General of the Russian Society of Neurologists.